GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1204
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2002
MPS AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF DRDA
BHIM PRASAD DAHAL;RAVI PRAKASH VERMA

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided that the Members of Parliament will be theEx-officio Members of District Rural Development Agencies (DRDA) and theDistrict Councils presidents will be the Chairman of DRDA and they will beconsulted in the finalisation of PMGSY in their respective States/areas particularly in North-Eastern States and Sikkim;

(b) if so, whether in many cases these meetings are called when the Session of Lok Sabha is in progress due to which the Members of Parliament cannot attend those meetings; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to solve this problem?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA)

(a) & (b) As per the existing Guidelines of the `District Rural Development AgencyAdministration` Scheme, Members of Parliament are Members of the Governing Body ofthe District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) and the Chairperson of the ZillaParishad is ex-officio Chairperson of the DRDA. Instructions have been issued to theState Governments and Union Territory Administrations that the proposals/suggestions of Members of Parliament in respect of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana shouldreceive full consideration.

(c) The State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been advised tohold Meetings of the DRDA Governing Bodies regularly and, as far as possible, to convene such Meetings at a time when Parliament would not be in Session, as also toensure that the Members of Parliament are invited to attend such Meetings by giving sufficient advance notice of the same.